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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
                             Criminal Action No.
         v.
                              2:16-cr-00084-1
ALISON GU,
          Defendant.
                     MOTION TO REVOKE
                  CONDITIONS OF RELEASE
           As recorded on Monday, April 3, 2017
             United States District Court
             for the District of Vermont
                 Burlington Division
          Federal Building, 11 Elmwood Avenue
             Burlington, Vermont 05402
           Before the Honorable John M. Conroy
APPEARANCES:
ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
     MICHAEL P. DRESCHER, ASST. UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
     United States Attorney's Office
     Federal Building, 11 Elmwood Avenue
     PO Box 570
     Burlington, Vermont 05402
     (802) 951-6725 | michael.drescher@usdoj.gov
ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:
     DAVID L. MCCOLGIN, ASST. FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
     Federal Public Defender's Office
     126 College Street Ste 410
     Burlington, Vermont 05401
     (802) 862-6990 | david fd.org
TRANSCRIBER: PAMEL MAYO HAMEL
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MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017;				
THE CLERK: Please be seated. Your Honor, the				
matter before the court this afternoon is criminal action				
16-cr-84-1, United States of America versus Alison Gu, who's				
present in the court room this afternoon, with Assistant				
Federal Public Defender David McColgin; representing the				
Government is Assistant United States Attorney Michael				
Drescher, and we're here on the Government's motion to				
revoke conditions of release.				
THE COURT: Mr. Drescher, preliminarily, let me				
just inquire, which prong under 3148 is the Government				
proceeding on; probable cause to believe a new offense was				
4 committed, or that another violation of pre-trial release				
was imminent?				
MR. DRESCHER: The former, Your Honor, that a crime				
was committed, a violation of 1017.				
THE COURT: You may call your first witness.				
MR. DRESCHER: We call Special Agent Jeremy Stalla,				
Your Honor.				
THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand, and state				
your name for the record, sir.				
SPECIAL AGENT STALLA: Jeremy Stalla.				
THE CLERK: Do you solemnly swear that the evidence				
you shall give relative to the cause now under consideration				

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1
     shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help
 2
     you God?
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              SPECIAL AGENT STALLA:
                                     Yes, sir.
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              THE CLERK: Please be seated, sir.
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     (SPECIAL AGENT JEREMY STALLA, having been administered the
     oath to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth,
 6
 7
     testifies as follows:)
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     DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MICHAEL P. DRESCHER, ASST. UNITED
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     STATES ATTORNEY:
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              Sir, where are you employed?
         Q.
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              I work for the U.S. Department of State doing like
         Α.
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     security service. My current duty station is St. Albans,
13
     Vermont.
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              What is your position?
         0.
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              I'm a Special Agent.
         Α.
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              Are you the primary case agent involved in the
         Q.
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     investigation leading to the prosecution of the Defendant
     Ms. Gu?
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19
         Α.
              That's correct.
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              And you swore out at least one, I think more than
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     one, search warrant affidavits in connection with this
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     investigation?
              Yes.
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         Α.
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              I'm going to show you a series of exhibits and ask
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     you about them.
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1 THE COURT: Has Mr. McColgin seen those? 2 I have copies for Your Honor, as well. Ο. He has. 3 I'm going to put in front of the witness Exhibit 4 1 and Exhibit 7. Have you seen these documents before? 5 Α. Yes, sir. Showing you Exhibit 7, can you tell us what that 6 7 is, please? 8 Α. This is an official complaint filed by the 9 Plaintiff Deborah Concepcion versus the Defendants Matthew 10 Able and I. Chen. 11 0. And in what court was this -- is that complaint filed? 12 13 Α. This is a Brevard County 18th Judicial Circuit 14 Court. 15 Brevard County is located where? Q. Α. 16 In Florida. 17 Q. Did you obtain that document? 18 Yes, I did. Α. 19 And how did you go about obtaining it? Q. 20 Α. I contacted the court clerk from Brevard County. 21 And did you give them a docket number, or what did 0. 22 you give them? 2.3 I gave them a docket number. Α. 24 I'd like to show you Exhibit -- I turn your 25 attention now to Exhibit 1, and ask you, what is that

- document, Exhibit 1?

 A. This is a transcript from the summary judgment in
- Q. You said a "transcript of the summary judgment,"
 you mean a transcript of the hearing?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. And the date of that hearing was what?
 - A. August 16, 2016.
- 9 Q. And did you obtain this document, that is, Exhibit
- 10 1?

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11 A. Yes, I did.

the same case.

- 12 Q. And how did you obtain that?
- 13 A. From the clerk of court from Brevard County.
- Q. Now Exhibit 1 consists of approximately 12 or 13 pages of transcript, itself; is that right?
 - A. That's true.
 - Q. And then the final four pages of Exhibit 1 appear to be exhibits, do they not?
 - A. That's true.
- Q. And when you asked -- well, I guess let me ask
 this, what is it that you asked the Brevard County Court for
 that prompted them to give you that which has been marked as
 Exhibit 1?
- A. I was contacted by the Plaintiff of this case,

 Deborah Concepcion regarding this case. She actually

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- provided me the first copy of this case -- of this summary just to keep me in the loop of her case. When I reviewed the documents, I noticed that there was a seal used by I.J. Chen (phonetic), and that's when I requested the official copy from the court.
- Q. And so it was your request to the court that prompted you to receive that which is marked as Exhibit 1?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Now turning to the -- and you had a chance to review the transcript that is Exhibit 1?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And is it fair to say that it is a transcript, the first 12 pages are a transcript of the court hearing in the case of Concepcion versus Able and Chen?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And that the final four pages, the exhibits, consist of two pages of --
- MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, I would object to labeling these as exhibits. There's no indication, whatsoever, that these were exhibits, or that they were introduced at the time of the hearing. All we know is from the agent that they appear to be attached to the transcript. We don't know how they got attached to it.
- And I don't believe there's any reference in the transcript, itself, to attached exhibits. So I would object

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     to any reference to those four pages as being exhibits to
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     that hearing.
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                          Well, they haven't -- the Assistant
              THE COURT:
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     United States Attorney hasn't offered them for admission, so
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     I think this line of inquiry might be improper, at this
     point, without an offer of admission.
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              MR. MCCOLGIN: I would object on that ground, as
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     well, Your Honor.
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              I'm trying to authenticate and establish the
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     relevance of --
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              THE COURT:
                           Okay.
              -- of the exhibits, Your Honor.
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         Ο.
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              THE COURT:
                          The objection is overruled.
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              Setting the exhibit aside for a moment, you've had
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     a chance to talk to Ms. Concepcion, the Plaintiff in the
     Florida lawsuit?
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17
         Α.
              Yes.
18
              And is it correct that Ms. Concepcion was the
         Ο.
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     seller of a piece of real estate in Cocoa Beach, Florida?
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         Α.
              Yes.
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              And that the complaint that is Exhibit 7 identifies
         Ο.
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     the property as being on Cedar Avenue in Cocoa Beach?
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              Yeah, 385 Cedar Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida.
         Α.
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              THE COURT: Mr. Drescher, your inquiry is leading
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     the witness to (unclear-voice lowered). Do you think you
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can (unclear)?

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Q. I will try to do so, Your Honor. I was trying to sort of -- in the interest of laying a foundation, but I will -- I'll open it up a little bit.

What did Ms. Concepcion tell you about the lawsuit?

A. Essentially she told me there was an agreement -MR. MCCOLGIN: Objection, Your Honor. The
statements of a litigant? This is, first of all, hearsay.
I understand that hearsay could be admissible, but this is hearsay coming from a litigant who has every incentive, in fact a clear monetary incentive --

THE COURT: Hm-hmm.

MR. MCCOLGIN: -- to state things in a way perhaps mostly that would benefit her position. So I would object to any hearsay statements from Ms. Concepcion.

THE COURT: Okay. The objection is overruled. Hearsay is permissible in this action.

Mr. McColgin, I will view this testimony in a proper light with the understanding that it's coming from a litigant who has a motivation (unclear-voice lowered), but it really goes to the weight of the evi -- to the motive to the evidence.

Q. In light of the objection, let me narrow the question a little bit. What did Ms. Concepcion tell you, if

- anything, about the subject matter of the litigation?
- A. The case was in dispute of some furniture that was agreed-upon to be sold, personal property in the house that was agreed-upon between Ms. Concepcion and I. Chen and Matt Able to purchase the personal property located in the house.
- Q. The house -- when you say "the house," what do you mean?
 - A. The 385 Cedar Lane, Cocoa Beach, Florida.
 - Q. When was the last time you spoke with Ms.
- Concepcion?

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- A. She sent me a message last week.
- Q. With regard to Exhibit 1, the transcript of the hearing, do you have reason to believe that the person identified in that transcript as "Ms. Chen" is the Defendant Ms. Gu?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. What, if any, connection does Ms. Gu have to the property identi -- the Cedar Beach -- the Cedar Avenue property, Cocoa Beach?
- A. I, during the course of my investigation, I uncovered that I. Chen and Matthew Able committed bank fraud in order to receive funds in order to purchase this property in Cocoa Beach, Florida.
- MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, these are all conclusory

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     statements that actually go to allegations in the indictment
     that are very much in dispute. I would object to this
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     coming in as testimony.
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              THE COURT: I think the agent has expressed an
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     opinion; it is what it is, it's his opinion.
              MR. MCCOLGIN: Very well.
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              Is "I. Chen" a name that is associated with the
         Ο.
8
     Defendant Ms. Gu?
9
         Α.
              Yes.
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              MR. MCCOLGIN: Again, Your Honor, I object to his
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     expressing what appears, at this point, to simply be an
     opinion.
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13
              I'm showing you what's been marked --
         Q.
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              THE COURT:
                          Wait, I'll give you (unclear).
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         Q.
              I'm sorry.
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                          What do you say to the Defendant?
              THE COURT:
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         0.
              I will withdraw the question for now, I will ask
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     a -- I'm going to show the witness some exhibits, too,
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    perhaps make the question less objectionable.
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              THE COURT:
                         Mr. Drescher, I assume you are no
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     relation to the Lois Drescher who's the court -- the court
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     order in this case?
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              That is an accurate assumption, so far as I know --
         Q.
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     so far as I'm aware, Your Honor.
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              Showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 4.
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is Exhibit 4?

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- A. These are credit cards and bank cards that we seized during the search warrant of 7 Edith Place, which have the names "I. Chen," "Jing Chow," (phonetic), "I. Jen
- 5 Chen, "(phonetic), "I.J. Chen, "(phonetic), "I. Chen."
- These were discovered in Ms. Gu's wallet located inside of her purse.
 - Q. A couple of follow-up questions. You said "these were discovered in Ms. Gu's wallet inside of her purse."

 When were they discovered?
 - A. During the execution of the search warrant.
 - Q. And was the search of where, or of what?
 - A. It was the search warrant of her property at 7 Edith Place, Cheshire, Connecticut.
- 15 Q. I move the admission of Exhibit 4, Your Honor.

 16 THE COURT: Any objection?
 - MR. MCCOLGIN: I object, Your Honor. If I may inquire of the witness?
- 19 THE COURT: Sure.
- 20 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION BY DAVID L. MCCOLGIN, ASST. FEDERAL 21 PUBLIC DEFENDER:
 - Q. In Exhibit 4 -- indicates at the top that these items were found in the master bathroom, correct?
 - A. You're correct.
 - Q. On top of the sink within a make-up bag.

- A. Yes, I'm sorry, I misspoke, you are correct.
 - Q. So they were not found on Ms. Gu.
 - A. They were found in her residence, you're correct.
 - Q. They were found in a --
- A. I apologize.

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- Q. -- residence also shared by Mr. Able.
- A. That's correct.

MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, I object on relevance grounds.

THE COURT: Mr. Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: I think the identity of the person who participated in a hearing, in the Brevard County action that is Exhibit 1, is relevant to establishing whether there's probable cause for a violation of section 1017. The fact that credit cards were found in the Defendant's residence by the name of "I.J. Chen" (phonetic) certainly is relevant to establishing whether that is a name she used.

THE COURT: I agree. The Government has essentially established that the "I. Chen," who is reflected in this transcript from Brevard County, is the same individual who was charged in this court, and I think the evidence is filed with the court, and 4 is admitted.

BY MR. DRESCHER:

Q. Showing you now what has been marked as Exhibit 5.

Is it correct that Exhibit 5 is a page from the power point

- presentation that you've prepared?
- A. Yes, it is.

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- Q. I'm going to draw your attention to the left side of Exhibit 5. It appears to be a New Hampshire photo ID; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. And did you obtain that photo ID?
- A. Yes, I did -- well, I mean I received -- this came from the Department of Motor Vehicles of New Hampshire, but we never located the actual physical ID.
 - Q. The New Hampshire DMV sent you a copy of this ID?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Did you investigate with the help of the New Hampshire DMV as to how this identification was generated?
 - A. Yes, I did.
- Q. Can you explain to the court how you went about -or what your investigation revealed relative to the
 generation of the "I.J. Chen" New Hampshire identification
 card?
- A. We were able to determine that a state of Florida certificate of birth was used which was in the name of "Hoa Win," (phonetic). That document was accompanied by a Montgomery County, Alabama Court Order and certificate of name change from "Hoa Win" to "I.J. Chen."
- In addition, a Social Security card was provided,

- number 589-01-7390 in the name of "I.J. Chen" issued

 December 3rd, 2014, as well as a Johnson State College ID

 card issued in 2015 to "I.J. Chen." Those were the

 documents used at the time of application to obtain this

 document -- this driver's -- nondriver ID card.
- Q. With regard to the Montgomery County, Alabama Court Order purporting to change the name of "Win" to "Chen," this was a document that had been provided to the DMV?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And did you do anything to check on whether that was a real document?
 - A. Yes, we contacted -
 THE COURT: What is the "real document"?
- Q. The Alabama Court Order changing the name from "Win" to "Chen." What did you do to check on whether that was a real document?
- A. We contacted the Montgomery County, Alabama Court for a second time because we had contacted them for the Gu identity, as well, and again, they informed us that the document was fraudulent; that the numbering scheme on the document didn't match their numbering scheme; that the —that there was no record of a name change from "Win" to "Chen" on any date; that the statute cited on the document was not a statute in Alabama, and so forth.
 - Q. Did the document purport to have a court seal?

A. Yes.

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- Q. I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 6. What is Exhibit 6?
- A. The top part of the photo shows one of three notary stamps that we found. This is the actual machine that is used to press a notary stamp or a court stamp, we found three of those. Below it is a gold seal showing what the stamp looks like. We also -- we found a number of those blank gold seals at the residence, as well.
- Q. The item that is depicted in Exhibit 6, have you seen that item physically with your own eyes?
 - A. Yes, I have.
 - Q. And where did you encounter that item?
 - A. It was found in the kitchen, in a counter.
- O. Where? Where?
- A. 7 Edith Place in the kitchen.
- O. You said "7 Edith Place"?
 - A. That's correct, in Cheshire, Connecticut.
 - Q. And who lives there -- or who lived there?
 - A. Ms. Gu, Matthew Able and their children -- and her children.
- Q. Did you have a search warrant to search that residence?
 - A. Yes, I did, yes.
- O. The seal that is created by the item on Exhibit 6,

- how does that compare to the seal that was on the name-change document from the Alabama Court that changed the name -- purportedly changed the name from "Win" to "Chen" that you mentioned earlier?
 - A. It appears to be the exact same.
- Q. During the course of your investigation, did you come upon a Social Security number that was originally issued to the person named "Wo T. Win" (phonetic)?
 - A. Yes.

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Q. And based upon your investigation, was that Social Security number used in the -- in -- let me withdraw that question for a moment, please.

And what, if anything, did you do relative to that Social Security number with regard to your investigation in this matter?

- A. I confirmed that the Social Security was issued at the time -- or near the time of birth to "Ho Win" (phonetic), and that Ho Win had subsequently died in California. I also confirmed with the Social Security Administration that Social Security numbers are never reissued after the time of death to any person.
- Q. Did you use that Social Security number to pursue any financial investigation?
 - A. Yes, I did.
 - Q. And can you briefly summarize what that

- 1 investigation turned up -- was that Social Security number 2 used and recently? 3 Α. Yes, the "I.J. Chen" using the birth certificate 4 and -- the birth date and the Social Security number of Ho 5 Win applied for multiple bank loan -- applied for and received multiple bank loans and purchased several 6 7 properties. 8 THE COURT: Who was the applicant? 9 The applicant was -- for the bank --Α. 10 THE COURT: For the bank loan for the property 11 purchased, who's --12 Α. I.J. Chen, Your Honor. 13 Now the original "Wo P. Win" (phonetic), did your Q. 14 investigation turn up whatever happened to that person? 15 The person died in the state of California. As a Α. 16 child. I don't have the exact date of death in front of me, 17 but she died as a young child.
 - Q. I move the admission of Exhibit 5.

 THE COURT: 5, being the --

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Q. The power point presentation that includes the driver's license.

MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, I object on relevance grounds, I don't think there's a sufficient connection here.

THE COURT: Well, I think the Government is offering this to show that the "I. Chen" who was referenced

- in the Brevard County civil action is the "I. Chen" or the individual charged in this court, so the court will admit 5 for that reason.
 - Q. Agent Stalla, have you had occasion to compare the photograph of the New Hampshire "I. Chen" ID that is Exhibit 5 to the Defendant in this case?
 - A. Yes.

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Q. And what, if any, conclusions have you drawn?

MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, I would object to this.

I mean I think the court can look at the photo, it's a
blurry photo, I don't think that we -- I don't think he's
particularly expert in identification from a photo.

THE COURT: Well, I'm not sure it takes an expert.

It's lay testimony, I'll take the answer.

- A. So what was interesting with the photo, Your Honor, --
 - THE COURT: Answer the question.
- Q. Try to narrow the-- the question was pretty narrow.

 By comparing the photo that is on Exhibit 5 to the

 Defendant in this action, what, if any, conclusions have you

 drawn?
 - A. It appears to be the same person, to me.
- Q. Have I moved the admission of Exhibit 6? If not, I move the admission of Exhibit 6, as well.
- 25 THE COURT: Any objection?

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MR. MCCOLGIN: I object just on general relevance grounds, Your Honor.
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THE COURT: I have one question of the witness.

These gold stamps which state "Probate Court Montgomery

County," were these with the device?

A. Yes, sir.

THE COURT: 6 is admitted.

Q. Your Honor, as I try to continue to establish the relevance of the exhibits, Exhibit 1, in particular, I would ask Your Honor to take judicial notice of Document 100 in this court's docket, which I'm handing up. I've highlighted on the page I've handed to Your Honor.

This is a motion that was filed by Ms. Gu in recent weeks seeking permission to travel, where it was specified that she would be residing at the address in Cocoa Beach that is referenced in the complaint that is Exhibit 7. I would ask Your Honor to take notice of that as an admission of the Defendant.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. MCCOLGIN: No objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The court will take notice of the fact that the Defendant's motion for the permission to travel to Cocoa Beach referenced the same address that is the subject of the civil action in Brevard County.

Q. When you spoke with Ms. Concepcion last week, what,

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- if anything, did she say to you about recently having seen Ms. Chen?
 - A. She told me that Ms. Chen was at the 385 Cedar Lane, Cocoa Beach, Florida address, and that a number of building materials had just been dropped off at the residence.
- Q. Your Honor, I move the admission of Exhibit 7. I believe its relevance has been established to -- by virtue of the fact there's litigation over the recent sale of the Cocoa Beach property naming, among its Defendants, an "I. Chen," and the connection of that address and our Defendant -- and that name and our Defendant have been established, such that Exhibit 1, which is a hearing transcript relative to that litigation, which is really the heart of our argument, can be put into context.

THE COURT: Mr. McColgin, I take it with the Government's offer, that they have offered 7 for admission for the limited purpose to show that there is a civil action pending in Brevard County. I'm not going to take into account anything set forth in the complaint, other than that there is a civil action pending concerning this real property.

MR. MCCOLGIN: For those purposes, we have no objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So admitted.

Q. With regard to Exhibit 1, Agent Stalla, and with Your Honor's permission, I intend to lead just a couple of short questions here, I think we've already covered it, but just for the train of thought, and should there be an objection, I'll refrain.

Exhibit 1 consists of a transcript and four additional pages; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And you obtained these from the same Brevard County Court in which the complaint that is Exhibit 7 was filed, correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And the docket number or the hearing that is Exhibit 1 is the same as the complaint; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And during the course of the transcript portion of Exhibit 1, there is at least one, perhaps more than one statement attributed to a Ms. Chen; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And among the materials that are -- that were provided to you by the court that are also in Exhibit 1, there are also two pages of -- relating to a notarization of a document purporting to have been signed by a Ms. Chen; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.

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Q. Your Honor, I intend to get into the substance of Exhibit 1 a little bit more, but at this point, I think its relevance has been established and authenticity for our purposes has been established under the admission of Exhibit 1.

THE COURT: Objection?

MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, I object on the grounds that we simply don't know why these documents were attached. Again, they are not referred to in the transcript. There's no reference to exhibits or exhibits being attached. There's nothing on the papers indicating, in and of themselves, that they are in fact exhibits or that they would be introduced as part of any hearing.

The only thing that we have is the last page appears to be a U.S. Postal Service receipt, indicating that a Matthew Able sent these to Scott Lieberman, who I believe is the attorney for the Plaintiff. Brett Hyde -- yeah, Scott Lieberman and Brett Hyde. Brett Hyde is the attorney for the complainant. So we don't know who submitted these, why they were submitted. Given that we don't know the origin of these documents, I would object to them being admitted.

THE COURT: Well, in the transcript, Ms. Chen argues before the court asking why her response -- or Mr. Able's response and her response to the motion for

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- summary judgment was not considered by the court. These documents at issue were labeled as declaration in support or response to summary judgment. They bear the court's docket numbers, they bear the court's case number. It appears that these were filed by the defendants in the civil action, and accordingly they are admitted.
- Q. Agent Stalla, I'd like to draw your attention to the third to last and second to the last pages of Exhibit 1, please. Do you see the third to last page?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. It has the title Certificate of Acknowledgment of Execution of an Instrument?
 - A. I do.
- Q. Actually, before I ask you about this specific page, during your course of your career work in the State Department, have you been stationed outside of your current duty station?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Fair to say you've been around the world?
 - A. I've served at three U.S. Embassies.
- Q. And is it -- do United States Embassies provide notarization services to persons who may have business to conduct in the United States?
 - A. Yes, they do.
 - Q. The page that we have just identified on Exhibit 1,

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- Certificate of Acknowledge of Execution of an Instrument, can you describe what that is, please?
 - A. Well, this is a document that was prepared by the -- purportedly prepared by the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, and it lists the vice consul who is performing the notary service.
 - Q. And the date?
 - A. August 5th, 2016.
 - Q. And the following page.
 - A. The following page is something that was prepared that, I believe, by the person asking for the notary, in this case, I. Chen. Essentially asking to sign this in front of the notary and get it notarized.
 - Q. Have you -- do you recognize the name of the person who appears to have notarized and signed the two pages we've talked about?
 - A. I didn't recognize the name, but I was able to look up the name in our -- in our global e-mail system.
 - Q. That's Andrew Aylward (phonetic); is that correct?
- A. I believe that's how you say it, yes.
 THE COURT: I can't hear you.
 - A. I believe so. I believe that's the way to pronounce it, Andrew Aylward.
 - Q. Did you show Mr. Aylward copies of the two pages

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- we've just been talking about?
 - A. Yes, I sent him a copy.
 - Q. And why did you do that?
 - A. I was trying to see if he could verify the authenticity of the seal and his signature.
 - Q. What did he say?
 - A. He said that it appeared to look like his signature. As for the notary stamp, it was hard for him to tell because it wasn't an original notary stamp.

THE COURT: Which page are you referencing now?

A. The third -- third to the last, the Certificate of Acknowledgment of Execution of an Instrument.

THE COURT: Tell me again what he said.

- A. He told me that it did appear to look like his signature, and the stamp appeared to look like a seal of the U.S. Department of State, but because it was a photocopy, you know, and it's not the embossed, raised seal, he was unable to say if that was an authentic seal or not.
 - Q. Fair to say he thought the copy looked legit?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did you inquire as to Mr. Aylward as to whether he in fact executed these documents?
 - A. I did.
 - Q. And what did he say?
- A. He said he was -- he provided me a list of

- everybody that came in for notarial services on August 5th, 2016, and there was nobody by the name of "I.J. Chen,"

 "Alison Gu," "Maddy Woo," (phonetic), that came in and paid for notarial services on that date.
 - Q. Did Mr. Aylward indicate to you whether he would've expected to be a record of him having provided notarial services?
 - A. He expected that there would be a record.
 - O. If he had in fact done so.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. If I could have just a minute, Your Honor.

 Nothing further.
- CROSS EXAMINATION BY DAVID L. MCCOLGIN, ASST. FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER:
- Q. Agent, I'd like to start right where we left off with the direct examination regarding the certificate of acknowledgment from Singapore. You indicated that the notary, Mr. Aylward, said that this document was not on his list of notarized documents for August 5th, 2016; is that correct?
- A. Not the document, itself, but the -- he provided the name of people who came in for notarial services on that date, and the name "I. Chen" was not on that list. He didn't have a record of the actual document that was notarized.

- Q. So he keeps a list of names of people who have received a notary, received a document notarized; is that correct?
- A. He keeps a list of people that came in for services, consular services for each day that he's providing those services.
- Q. You did not ask him to check on August 4th, or 3rd, or the 6th or 7th, correct, to see if that name appeared on a list?
 - A. I asked him for August 5th.
 - Q. You only asked him for August 5th.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Regarding the hearing for which there's a transcript, Government Exhibit 1, from August 16th, 2016, of course you were not present for that hearing, correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And the parties for that hearing appeared by telephone; is that correct?
 - A. I believe so, yes.
- Q. Insofar as you know, no one has listened to the tape of that hearing in order to make any sort of voice identification of the person who identifies herself as "Ms. Chen," correct?
 - A. As far as I know, that's correct, yes.
 - Q. And the person who identifies herself as "Ms. Chen"

- never identifies herself as "Alison Gu" during that transcript, correct?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. Now the attachments, which the Government is calling exhibits to Government Exhibit 1, the last page consists of a U.S. Postal Service receipt; is that right?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. So it would appear that those documents were sent pursuant to that particular postal receipt; is that a fair interpretation?
 - A. I believe, yes, that's fair.
- Q. And a postal receipt indicates that the documents were sent by Matthew Able.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. There's no indication on that postal receipt that they were sent by Alison Gu, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- THE COURT: Mr. McColgin, I misunderstood your initial objection, I -- in -- well-taken that these are not exhibits to the transcript, these are court documents related to the civil action. You're correct in your objection that these are not exhibits to the transcript.
- Q. Thank you, Your Honor. I have no further questions, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Anything further?

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     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MICHAEL P. DRESCHER, ASST. UNITED
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     STATES ATTORNEY:
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         Ο.
              Do you know who Matthew Able is?
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         Α.
              Yes, I do.
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              Who is he?
         Ο.
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              He has a relationship with Ms. Gu,
         Α.
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     boyfriend-girlfriend type relationship.
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              So far as you know, do they live together?
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              Up until recently I believe they had been living
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     together in Cheshire, Connecticut. I believe Ms. Gu now
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     lives in Windhall, Vermont.
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              Do you have a sense for how long Ms. Gu and
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     Mr. Able have been together?
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         Α.
              Multiple years, at least since 2015.
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              Nothing further.
         Q.
              THE COURT: Okay, you're excused.
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         Α.
              Thank you.
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              THE COURT: Does the Government have any additional
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     evidence to present?
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              MR. DRESCHER:
                              We do not, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT:
                         Does the Government rest?
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              MR. DRESCHER:
                              It does.
              THE COURT: Mr. McColgin, do you wish to present
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     any evidence, or do you wish to rely on argument?
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              MR. MCCOLGIN: Wish to rely on argument, Your
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Honor.

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THE COURT: Mr. Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Your Honor, the issue before the court is whether there's probable cause to conclude that Ms. Gu has violated section 1017 of Title 18 in connection with the -- the pages relating to the Singapore notarization, or what appear to be a Singapore notarization that is part of Exhibit 1. I'll note at the outset, that while those documents do not appear -- Your Honor is correct, in that the transcript of -- that is Exhibit 1 do not make reference to those documents as exhibits.

The transcript that is Exhibit 1 include several admissions by both Mr. Able and Ms. Chen, Ms. Gu, that they had prepared affidavits; that they had tried to mail them in; that they had a mailing receipt for them dated August 10th, and that the content of that transcript should provide the -- in addition to the other connections between Ms. Gu and the Cocoa Beach property, the litigation and the Cocoa Beach property, and -- and that the content of the transcript makes reference to Ms. Chen and Mr. Able having prepared notarization, that these were prepared by them.

In order to violate section 1017, it's not necessary that the document actually was treated as an exhibit in court, but merely, that Ms. Chen -- Ms. Gu, rather, procured or transferred a document to which was

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     affixed the seal of an agency of the United States, and that
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     she knew that the seal had been fraudulently-affixed.
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     think the fact that there is no evidence of Ms. Gu having
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    been in Singapore in August of this year -- of last year,
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     rather, in fact had she been in Singapore of August of last
     year, that would have been in violation of her conditions --
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 7
              THE COURT:
                          Isn't the certification evidence of her
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    being in Singapore?
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                             In some circum -- if she wishes to
              MR. DRESCHER:
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     arque that she was in Singapore on August 5th, I suppose it
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     could be self-authenticating in that regard.
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              THE COURT: Well, she doesn't have any burden here
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     to make any arguments.
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                             But my -- by virtue of the fact that
              MR. DRESCHER:
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     there is zero evidence maintained by Mr. Aylward regarding
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    his provision of notarization services on August 5th, by
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     virtue of the fact that Ms. Gu would not have been permitted
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     to have traveled on August 5th, it is -- I believe there is
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     sufficient evidence for the court to find probable cause
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     that Ms. Gu prepared and used the document that are the
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     second and third to last pages of Exhibit 1 in violation of
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     section 1017.
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              THE COURT: One has to wonder, what is the purpose
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     of this document?
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MR. DRESCHER: The review of the transcript

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suggests that Ms. Gu and Mr. Able were under a misimpression with regard to how to avoid the entry of summary judgment against them in connection with the litigation. The litigation itself was a dispute over whether Ms. Gu, known to the seller as "Ms. Chen and Mr. Able," were obligated to pay for the personal property, furniture that was present at the Cocoa Beach property, and that was the substance of the -- of the --

THE COURT: That's the allegation.

MR. DRESCHER: -- of the litigation, that was the allegation. And that the Plaintiff in that case, who was represented, appears to have filed a summary judgment motion. And that I believe, if you look at the content of the two affidavits that Ms. Gu and Mr. Able were trying to put in front of the court, they seem to have been under the misimpression that if they just sort of asserted that they had information to provide, that that would somehow establish the -- the entry of summary judgment would not be appropriate. And the content of the transcript itself makes clear that that's what they understood it to be.

THE COURT: But again, what's -- I don't understand it, it's just pure conjecture to make this inquiry. What's the purpose of this certificate of acknowledgment in the larger context of the civil lawsuit? What relevance is it?

MR. DRESCHER: If the -- as evidence of -- as I

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will call it, my assertion is that it's fake evidence of notarization. If something -- if a notarized statement or an affidavit was necessary to avoid probable cause, there would be -- it would be a necessary condition of what -- it would be necessary to provide that in order to avoid probable cause.

Now given the timing and other procedural problems in the context of that litigation, there are plenty -- there appear to have been plenty of reasons why summary judgment was entered against Mr. Gu (sic) and Ms. Able (sic).

THE COURT: All right, so let's -- Mr. Drescher seems to have focused only on the question of probable cause, so Mr. McColgin, do you wish to address the question of probable cause?

MR. MCCOLGIN: Yes, Your Honor. I don't believe there is probable cause to believe there is a violation in this case for multiple reasons. First of all, the Government hasn't shown that this document, whatever sort of document we call it, not an exhibit, or whatever it is, the document from Singapore, in fact is invalid. The agent testified that he did speak to the notary, Mr. Aylward. There's no testimony that Mr. Aylward said, yeah, that's a false document, he --

THE COURT: You really wonder -- that would put your client in Singapore.

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MR. MCCOLGIN: That would put a Ms. I. Jen Chen (phonetic) in Singapore. We, Your Honor, contend that that's not my client. There's no evidence that that is my client. So we have multiple layers here.

First of all, one, there's no evidence that that is a false document that was filed, as the Government is claiming. It could have simply been incorrectly dated, or maybe they didn't put this particular notarization on their list, who knows? But there's no -- there's simply no evidence that that is false. Even if we assume it's false, however, Your Honor, there's no evidence as to who the "I.J. Chen" was who appeared on the phone with Mr. Able. There's no voice identification. The "Chen" doesn't say "I am Alison Gu." There's simply no evidence as to who that person was.

Thirdly, there's no evidence that it was my client who submitted that document from Singapore. It appears to have been sent in by Matthew Able, not by my client. We have --

THE COURT: She references the postal receipt where she -- whoever A. Chen (phonetic) is in the argument references a postal receipt and brings it to the attention of the court that the documents were filed. And there's reliance on these documents by whoever "I. Chen" is in the civil action.

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MR. MCCOLGIN: Well, in any event, Your Honor, there's no evidence as to who that "I. Chen" was. The Government simply hasn't -- is unable to connect that up to my client. And the fact that there's a driver's license from New Hampshire not found in my client's house or on my client's person in the name of "I. Jen Chen" doesn't indicate that that was my client who was involved in this transcript.

And likewise the fact that even Mr. Able's house, where my client was also living, there's these credit cards in the name of "I. Jen Chen," again, that does not indicate that it was my client who was claiming to be "I. Jen Chen." So I think on multiple layers the Government has not established probable cause to believe that my client committed an offense.

MR. DRESCHER: May I respond, briefly?
THE COURT: Yes.

MR. DRESCHER: So with regard to the identity of "I. Chen," Your Honor has seen the driver's license that was obtained, that has the Defendant's face on it in the name of "I. Chen." Your Honor has seen, I believe it's Exhibit 6, which is the fake Alabama Probate Court seal that matches the seal that was put on the fake document purporting to change the name of the young woman long since deceased to whom the Social Security number subsequently associated with

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"Chen" has -- was also found in her residence, along with credit cards in the name of "I. Chen" that was also found in her residence.

Along with the fact, that as recently as last week, by virtue of the motion that was filed seeking the court's permission to travel, we know that this Defendant Ms. Gu, is associated with the very address in Cocoa Beach that the "I. Chen" and -- that somebody by the name of "I. Chen" was involved in litigation over back in -- last year in Florida. The fact that this Defendant was in that location, the fact that the credit cards and the probate seals were in this Defendant's house, and that the use -- that the probate -- the Alabama probate seals were used in furtherance of the scheme to get the driver's license that has "I. Chen's" name on it, with her photograph on it, all strongly-suggest that I. Chen and Ms. Gu are the same person, and that Ms. Gu and the Cocoa Beach property are connected, as well.

THE COURT: Well, let me ask you about 1017, Mr. Drescher, 1017 focusing on the language that is relevant to your argument based on "unlawful for anyone to fraudulently or wrongfully use by, procure, or sell, or transfer to another a certificate, instrument, or commission, which bears a seal, which has been fraudulently-affixed or impressed." What is the evidence that this seal was fraudulently-impressed or affixed?

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MR. DRESCHER: The fact that when the consul in Singapore was asked whether they'd ever provided notarization services on the date indicated to anybody by the name of "I. Chen", or by any of her aliases, the answer is no.

THE COURT: Well, in connection with this matter, the first task before the court is to determine whether or not there is probable cause to believe that a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1017 has been committed. And then if that finding is made, the court will then proceed to invite counsel to make argument on the second half of the section 3148 equation whether or not the Defendant would abide by any condition of release.

The court has before it substantial evidence to show that this Defendant Alison Gu is in fact the I. Chen, who is the civil litigant pending in Brevard County. That evidence includes such things as the following: The Government has seized Visa cards from Ms. Gu's residence, in which the name "I. Chen" is embossed on several of these Visa cards. The Government has presented evidence that the investigator contacted the New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles and ascertained that the individual who identified herself as "I. Chen," who bears a substantial resemblance to the Defendant Ms. Gu, filed an application for a New Hampshire ID card, in which the applicant utilized a Florida

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birth certificate in the name of "Ho T. Win," (phonetic).

The applicant also included a certificate purportedly from a Montgomery, Alabama Probate Court indicating a name change from "Ho D. Win," (phonetic), to "I.J. Chen." The investigator testified credibly that he contacted the Alabama County Court, Probate Court in Montgomery County, and was advised that the order or certificate was fraudulent, and in fact the Government, in the execution of its search warrant, seized a stamp bearing the emboss of the Montgomery County, Alabama Probate Court. That stamp was seized from the residence of this Defendant. The officer ascertained that the Social Security card -- a Social Security card was issued -- excuse me, was offered to New Hampshire by the name of "I.J. Chen."

Moreover, the civil action in Brevard County focuses upon a breach of contract arising from the sale of 385 Cedar Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida. This Defendant, herself, asked the court for permission to travel to 385 Cedar Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida in a recent filing before this court. I am persuaded that the "I. Chen" who is the civil Defendant in the Brevard County action is indeed Alison Gu, the indicted Defendant in this action.

Counsel argues that the evidence indicates that it was Mr. Able who furnished these documents to the Brevard County Court, these documents being the certificate of

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acknowledgment, as well as the declarations in response to motions for summary judgment. A review of the transcript reveals that Ms. Chen makes specific reference to these documents and relied upon them in her argument to the court. It may have been Mr. Able who mailed these documents to the court, but it's clear that Ms. Chen, also known as Ms. Gu, used them in the course of her argument before the court and therefore was well aware of their existence.

Quite frankly, I'm befuddled as to why the certificate of acknowledgment had any relevance, whatsoever, to the Defendant's response to the Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment, but it is clear to me that Ms. Gu, Ms. Chen submitted them to the court as part of her response, and that these documents -- at least there is probable cause to believe that these documents bear the embossed seal of the United States.

With particular reference to the United States
Embassy in Singapore, I note that the applicated filed by I.
Chen bears the stamp of the Republic of Singapore, Embassy
of the United States, which corroborates the fact that the
certificate by the consular officer was used as part of the
same litigation.

I am persuaded that there is at least probable cause to believe that Ms. Chen, also known as Ms. Gu, has violated section 1017 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

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At this time, let us proceed to the second half of the equation involving 3148, which is to determine whether there are any conditions Ms. Gu would abide by.

Mr. Drescher.

MR. DRESCHER: Your Honor, I note that Ms. Gu is currently subject to probation based upon a conviction in New York State Court. At the time, she engaged in the acts that gave rise to the court's just-made finding of probable cause. She was subject to a condition of this court to condition number 1 in her order of release to commit no crimes. It appears that while she is subject to the supervision of multiple courts, there is evidence to conclude she continues to commit a felony in the case of the 1017 violation.

Under those circumstances, I think it's appropriate for the court to conclude, one, that Ms. Gu presents a danger, in the sense that she doesn't seem to be able or willing to comport her conduct to the law despite the fact that she's under several court orders to do so. And that there's also -- it would also be reasonable to conclude that she is unwilling or unable to abide by conditions imposed by the court, and for those reasons, we think her release should be revoked.

THE COURT: Mr. McColgin.

MR. MCCOLGIN: Your Honor, first of all, these

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allegations are very dated, this goes back to August of last year, and the Government had mentioned these allegations to me in I believe it was September or October when I met with -- it's a different prosecutor, but still, mentioned that to me. The Government, at that time, saw no reason to believe that Ms. Gu was a danger to the community or a risk of flight.

Approximately eight months has passed. Now all of a sudden they're making this allegation. I think the fact that it's so dated, so much time has passed, in itself, indicates that there's no indication that she is an ongoing danger to the community. The pre-trial services has not moved that her conditions be revoked on this basis, they were aware of them, as well.

Your Honor, Ms. Gu has very strong ties. She is currently living with three of her children in Windhall, Vermont. One of them is attending school there, 15-years-old, the other two are being home-schooled.

THE COURT: By whom?

MR. MCCOLGIN: By -- well, there's a -- she's assisting in the home-schooling, and also there's computer programs that are available, so for on-line home-schooling, at this point.

So she spends most of her time, probably five days of the week most weeks up in Windhall, Windhall, Vermont.

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She does have some connections to some traveling down to Connecticut, but most of her time is up here with her children. She clearly is not a risk of flight, Your Honor. Approved to travel to Florida, she's back here today, knowing full well that this is a detention hearing. She's clearly not a risk of flight.

Given that these allegations are so dated, I don't think that there's a basis for saying that she is an ongoing danger to the community. Given her community ties and the dated nature of these allegations, Your Honor, and the fact that pre-trial services has not asked that her release be revoked, I think it is appropriate that she be continued on release.

THE COURT: All right, well, in connection with this matter, the court has entered revised conditions of release that are fairly strict. I accept Mr. McColgin's argument that the offense conduct for which I found probable cause did occur sometime ago, and the Government was well aware of this conduct, it appears. So that does not mean to excuse the criminal conduct for which the court has found probable cause, but I think the core of protecting conditions of release would satisfy the requirement that the court should set conditions of release where they would be sufficient to address the safety of the community.

In connection with this matter, I'm going to revise

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again the conditions of release. I'm going to deny the motion to vacate the order citing conditions of release. I'm going to revise the existing conditions to include electronic-monitoring. I'm going to require that Ms. Gu participate in the following location-monitoring component and abide by its program rules and regulations.

I'm going to impose the requirement that Ms. Gu be subject to home detention. She is restricted to her residence at all times, except for employment, education, religious services, medical or substance abuse, mental health treatment, attorney visits, court appearances, court-ordered obligations and other activities approved by the pre-trial service office.

I'm going to require her to submit to location-monitoring as directed by the pre-trial service office, and she is to pay all or part of the cost of the program based on her ability to pay. I'm going to add that to the existing conditions, with the understanding that if there are any violations, any further violations in the conditions of release, Ms. Gu would be subject to the issuance of an order of arrest, a warrant of arrest and an order of detention. That is the finding of the court.

I'll ask Mr. Jarvis to prepare these revised conditions. Any further argument?

MR. MCCOLGIN: Nothing further, Your Honor.

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              I do have a question, which I should probably raise
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     now because it's going to come up, but Your Honor had
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     previously granted permission for Ms. Gu to travel to
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     Florida. She's been going there, she indicates, in order to
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     help care for her father who's ill.
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              Would Your Honor entertain future requests to
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     travel to Florida, or would you take that on a case by case
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     basis?
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              THE COURT: I'd take that up on a case by case
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     basis.
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              MR. MCCOLGIN: Very well, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT:
                           Thank you.
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              MR. DRESCHER:
                              Thank you.
                           Thank you.
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              THE COURT:
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                              Thank you, Your Honor.
              MR. MCCOLGIN:
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              THE CLERK: All rise.
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I, PAMELA MAYO HAMEL, hereby certify that the
foregoing pages, numbered 3 through 45, inclusive, are a
true, accurate and complete transcription, to the best of my
ability, of a Recorded Motion to Revoke Conditions of
Release, held on April 3, 2017, in the matter of UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA V ALISON GU, File No. 2:16-cr-00084-1, at
the U.S District Court for the District of Vermont,
Burlington Div., 11 Elmwood Avenue, Burlington, Vermont.

